



DISTANT VIEW OF CALHOUN, 1901

With four assistants the founders on opening day faced 300 accepted pupils. The class-room work was planned to meet the needs of girls and boys, young men and women (for the ages varied from six years to twenty-eight), two thirds of whom could neither read nor write. This work was carried by four class-room teachers, while industrial training was given all classes by two Hampton graduates, — to the girls sewing, laundering, and cooking, the boys being taken out on the farm.



PRESIDENT'S COTTAGE, CALHOUN

But school life for the young people was but one side of the plan, and there was started an evening class for the parents; farmers' conferences and mothers' meetings, entertainments and Sunday services at the school. Work was also done with the neighboring churches, and schools and homes were visited.

The problems of the first year pointed out the lines of much-needed help for the colored people of Calhoun, where there were twenty-seven hundred Negroes to one hundred whites, and the outline was as follows: A small boarding-school for young people of the county, day school for the community

children, meetings and clubs to encourage the people to shake off the crop mortgage system, get clear of debt, and buy houses; work with the men for better farms, with the women for better care of the home and children, — to raise the standard of homes and life, reach out to the churches of the county, get in touch with the public-school teachers, — in short, to try in every way possible to come in touch with the people and change the life of the community.

At the opening of the third year, October, 1904, Miss Dillingham was taken from the work. Only those who knew her and her life at Calhoun can in any way realize the loss her death brought to the work. Her brother, Rev. Pitt Dillingham, was elected by the trustees to succeed her in the work as co-principal with Miss Thorn, and he remained in the work until June 1, 1909, when he tendered his resignation, Miss Thorn being made sole principal by the trustees. Now, at the beginning of



SCHOOL GROUNDS, 1902